

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18501 301421Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 301303Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8252

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18501

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: TVERDOKHLEBOV TRIAL PROBABLY POSTPONED

REF: MOSCOW 17861

1. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF VLADIMIR ALBREKHT, WHO IS PREPARING THE DEFENSE FOR ANDREY TVERDOKHLEBOV, THAT THE LATTER'S TRIAL WILL PROBABLY BE POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY ADDITIONAL ADVERSE WESTERN REPORTING IN THE PRE-CONGRESS PERIOD. AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF OTHER TRIALS WHICH WERE ALSO EXPECTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE BEFORE THE CONGRESS WILL ALSO BE POSTPONED.

2. OUR SOURCE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE ADDITIONAL DELAY WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE LIKELY EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF THE TVERDOKHLEBOV TRIAL. HE NOTED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT IT WAS A GOOD SIGN THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WERE SUFFICIENTLY CONSCIOUS OF THE EFFECTS OF WESTERN PRESSURE TO HAVE POSTPONED THE TRIAL.

3. ALBREKHT HIMSELF SHOULD HAVE APPEARED AT THE MEETING WITH HIS ASSOCIATE, BUT DID NOT DO SO. WE GATHERED THAT IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS SITUATION WHEN HE COVEYED TO US HIS PREFERENCE NOT TO SEE US, ALBREKHT IS NOW ACTIVELY SEEKING DIRECT CONTACT WITH US. WE CANNOT EXPLAIN WHY ALBREKHT DID NOT APPEAR IN THIS CASE, BUT OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT HE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE ANOTHER MEETING WITH ALBREKHT.

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MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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